

September 2013

# Branch FOCUS



## City announces Labor Day holiday hours

Most City of Farmers Branch offices and facilities will be closed on Monday, September 2 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. The Community Recreation Center and Historical Park, however, will be open that day from 8

a.m. until 5 p.m.

There will be no garbage collection on Labor Day.



## Health & Wellness Expo returning to Rec Center

The Farmers Branch Health & Wellness Expo is back, Saturday, September 14 at the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center.

Included will be a variety of health screenings, information and samples from numerous health and wellness providers. In addition, there will be fitness assessments, season flu shots, kids' activities, pet adoptions and microchipping and the annual Battle of the Badges to see whether the Police or Fire Departments can wrangle the most blood drive donations.

The public is invited and admission is free.

## Movie in the Park invites families to look 'Up'

The Disney-Pixar hit simply known as "Up" will be featured at the autumn edition of Movie in the Park, Saturday, September 28 at the Barney Wood Athletic Complex, next to the Community Recreation Center.



Admission is free and families are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for the outdoor seating.

Concessions, sno cones and a children's area will also be available. Activities start at 7 p.m. Showtime is at dusk.

## Star Party set Sep 10

Gazing at distant astronomical phenomena is planned for a Star Party, Tuesday, September 10 from dusk until about 9 p.m. at the Farmers Branch Historical Park. Volunteers will be on hand to assist with telescope viewing. Admission is free.

# LBJ at halfway

## Five year project is on time and budget at midway point

FARMERS BRANCH ~ With more than 53 percent of work completed on the five-year, \$2.7 billion makeover of LBJ Freeway, officials said the project is proceeding on time and budget with the first phase set to open late this year.

Reaching from the area of Central Expressway on the east side, to Interstate 35E on the west, the project is radically altering the perpetually busy roadway to incorporate more main lanes, continuous frontage roads and available tolled lanes. The goal is to better accommodate the volume of 21st century traffic that had stretched LBJ to its limit.

The span of the project from Greenville Avenue, west to Monfort Drive, complete with main lanes, service roads and below grade tolled lanes is on schedule to open in December, according to officials with LBJ Express, the construction management group responsible for the project.

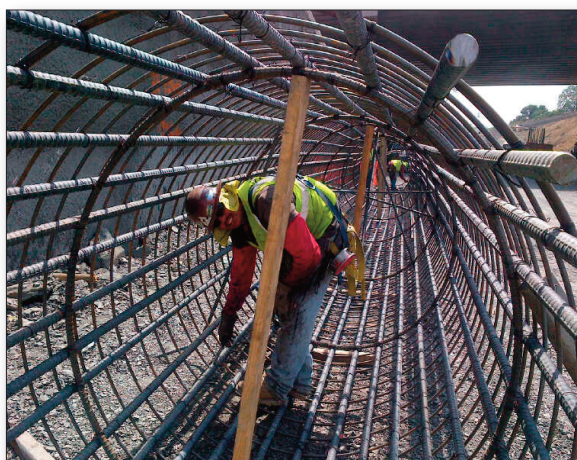
Work during the past two years has seen the installation of frontage roads where none had previously existed through the Farmers Branch corridor from Midway to Marsh and Webb Chapel, reconstruction of bridges and re-routing of on and off-ramps.

Farmers Branch City Manager Gary D. Greer said the City employs a consultant who works with LBJ Express to help us provide for minimal disruption and to advocate for the advancement of the city

More than 1,300 people, using some 300 pieces of equipment, including 50 cranes, work on the project every day, amidst 250,000 vehicles traversing the 13-mile circuit (including 165 lane-miles). The end result in each direction will be continuous frontage roads of two to three lanes, four main lanes on the freeway and two to three lanes on the below-ground tollway that will separate the east and westbound sides.



Reputed to be the single busiest Interstate highway intersection in the nation, the LBJ/35E interchange is seeing major work at this point in the project with ramps that will ease access on and off of 635.



More than 1,300 workers make progress on the project every day.

"This project will truly change not only the way drivers use LBJ and 35E, but will transform the choices they have in their daily travels along the corridor," said LBJ Express Corporate Affairs Director Andy Rittler. "We will offer a trip that will keep drivers moving through a very innovative approach not yet seen in this region or state."

Phases scheduled for completion in April of 2015 include the I-35E stretch from Valwood Parkway to Loop 12 and LBJ from Luna Road to Josey Lane. The final segment, from Josey to Monfort, will be finished in December of 2015.

For more information, visit lbjexpress.com.

VIDEO EXTRA



LBJ Express FlyOver

Scan the Code with a Smartphone

[www.farmersbranchtx.gov](http://www.farmersbranchtx.gov)

# Dr. Gilbert's Journal

## Historical Park revels in exciting new acquisition

HISTORICAL PARK ~ Whether he was recording information about a patient or remarking on the happenstance of the day, Dr. Samuel Gilbert kept a journal that today gives 21st century historians a portal through which to view life in Farmers Branch in the late 19th century.

Now, more than 130 years later, that journal is home in the rock-walled house in the Farmers Branch Historical Park that Dr. Gilbert built and where he wrote about life in 1880.

The Gilbert House still sits on its original foundation in the northeast corner of the 28-acre park and is reputed to be the oldest existing house in Dallas County, built in 1856.

It was during a visit to the Historical Park earlier this year that Ann Griffin told Park staff that she was one of Dr. Gilbert's great-great-granddaughters. More than that, though, she explained that her sister, Mary Catherine Lewis of Portland, Oregon, was in possession of a portion of their ancestor's journal from 1880.

Historical Park Superintendent Derrick Birdsall said that in the flurry of phone calls and e-mails that followed, Mrs. Lewis agreed to donate the journal to the Park. Shortly thereafter, Park Curator, Jamie Rigsby, was on a plane to Portland to assess the condition of the journal and bring it home to Texas.

"The journal is in fragile condition and will require some conservation work before it can be used as part of the Historical Park's collection," he explained. "Staff hopes to learn more about day-to-day life for Dr. Gilbert and Farmers Branch in 1880 and 1881 as this is the primary source we have from that time."

"It's like waiting to open a treasure box that's been buried for over a century."

Dr. Gilbert died in 1890 and is buried in the Webb Chapel Cemetery in Farmers Branch, but now his words, written in his own hand, will help reinforce the heritage of Farmers Branch and lead to a better understanding of the era and its people.



Home to one of the earliest Farmers Branch families, now located inside the Historical Park, Dr. Samuel Gilbert's house still stands on the foundation it was built upon in 1856.



VIDEO  EXTRA



Dr. Gilbert's Journal  
Scan the Code with a  
Smartphone

## Residents can drop off chemicals at Dallas truck

DALLAS ~ Farmers Branch residents will soon be able to participate in a city of Dallas mobile truck drop off program that will dispose of batteries, oils, such as motor oil and oil filters, latex paint and antifreeze, known collectively as **BOPA (Batteries, Oils, Paints, Antifreeze)**.



As a participating city in the Dallas County Household Hazardous Waste Program, Farmers Branch residents will be able to recycle these items free of charge wherever the Dallas BOPA truck stages drop off events. The truck will also give away household cleaning products which have been donated for reuse, while supplies last. Proof of residency may be required and the truck may be available only until filled. Residents may also take household hazardous waste items to the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center at 11234 Plano Road in Dallas.

For more information, other drop off locations and collection schedules, call 214.670.4475 or visit [www.dontwastetoday.com](http://www.dontwastetoday.com).

## Wedding in the Branch grand prize winners announced

FARMERS BRANCH ~ In partnership with a number of local vendors, the City of Farmers Branch has selected one, deserving military couple as the recipient of a prize wedding in the newly renovated Rose Gardens of Farmers Branch.

Elizabeth and Brandon, of Arlington, were selected from the pool of applicants to be the grand prize recipients of an expenses paid "Wedding in the Branch." Elizabeth is currently attending college at the University of Texas at Arlington while Brandon is serving in the United States Navy, currently stationed in Japan. When proposing, Brandon led Elizabeth on a scavenger hunt before proposing in song.

The "Wedding in the Branch" program is made possible in part by partnership with Culinary Art Catering, Jenny McCann photography, Sheraton Dallas Hotel by the Galleria, Meringue Bakery, BJ's Party Planning and Decorating, Uncle Willie's Pies catering, Panini Bakery, In Bloom flowers, Green Light Media Services, 2 Sweets Candy Bar and Keestone Events.

For more information on monthly giveaways for brides, visit [www.weddinginthebranch.com](http://www.weddinginthebranch.com)



Elizabeth & Brandon

## Save the date for 'Bluegrass' & 'Chili'

Enticing taste buds as well as open ears, the 2013 edition of the Bloomin' Bluegrass Festival and Chili Cookoff is coming to the Farmers Branch Historical Park on Friday and Saturday, October 18 & 19.

Bluegrass artists confirmed for this year's free festival include Suzy Bogguss and the Travelin' McCourys. The Chili Cookoff will be on Saturday and is in need of judges. For more information on the event or to volunteer as a judge, visit [www.bloominbluegrass.com](http://www.bloominbluegrass.com).

## Manske Library plans outdoor movie series

Following the 'Journey through the Stacks' theme for Adult Summer Reading this year, the Farmers Branch Manske Library will feature three movies under the stars in their outdoor amphitheater on the banks of Rawhide Creek the first three Saturdays in September.

The 1985 favorite "Back to the Future" will be presented on September 7. Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint are featured in the Alfred Hitchcock classic, "North by Northwest" on September 14. The series concludes with the 2013 blockbuster, Disney's "Oz, the Great and Powerful."

Admission is free.

## Pickups-N-Panels headed back to Historical Park

The Pickups-N-Panels Classic Car & Truck Show, benefiting the American Cancer Society, returns to the Farmers Branch Historical Park on Saturday, September 14 from 10 a.m. til 3 p.m. Admission is free.

The show is open to all 1972 and older model cars and trucks. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Visit [pickupsandpanels.com](http://pickupsandpanels.com).

## September senior dance schedule set

Sep 2 Closed - Labor Day  
Sep 9 - J.C. Tippet Ballroom Band  
Sep 16 - Will Taylor Country Band  
Sep 23 - Gary Lee Ballroom Band  
Sep 30 - Bill G Ballroom Band

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